

Claims

Claim 1 (Original): An auxiliary saddle stirrup for facilitating mounting of a horse having a saddle secured thereon, comprising:

a strap having an upper end and a lower end, the upper end being attachable to the saddle at a location rearwardly remote from a primary stirrup on the saddle;
a foot loop on the lower end of the strap so as to be positioned behind and below the primary stirrup when the strap hangs down from the saddle.

Claim 2 (Original): The saddle stirrup of claim 1 wherein the strap has an adjustable length.

Claim 3 (Original): The saddle stirrup of claim 1 wherein the strap has at least two elongated members adjustably secured together so that the length of the strap may be altered.

Claim 4 (Original): The saddle stirrup of claim 3 further comprising a buckle to secure the elongated members together.

Claim 5 (Original): The saddle stirrup of claim 1 wherein the loop includes a friction surface to prevent slipping.

Claim 6 (Original): The saddle stirrup of claim 1 wherein the upper and lower ends each includes a snap to secure the ends together in a storage position.

Claim 7 (Original): The saddle stirrup of claim 1 wherein the upper and lower ends of the strap are adapted to be releasably connected together.

Claim 8 (Original): A saddle comprising:
a seat;
a primary stirrup hanging downwardly from the seat; and
an auxiliary stirrup hanging downwardly from the seat behind and below the primary stirrup.

Claim 9 (Original): The saddle of claim 8 further comprising a ring on the saddle behind the seat, the auxiliary stirrup being secured to the ring.

Claim 10 (Original): The saddle of claim 8 wherein the auxiliary stirrup has an adjustable length.

Claim 11 (Original): The saddle of claim 8 wherein the auxiliary stirrup has upper and lower ends adapted to be secured together in a storage position.

Claim 12 (Original): The saddle of claim 11 wherein each of the upper and lower ends includes a snap to snap the ends to one another.

Claim 13 (Original): The saddle of claim 8 wherein the auxiliary stirrup includes an elongated strap having an upper end and a lower end with a foot loop thereon.

Claim 14 (Original): The saddle stirrup of claim 13 wherein the strap has at least two elongated members adjustably secured together so that the length of the strap may be altered.

Claim 15 (Original): The saddle stirrup of claim 14 further comprising a buckle to secure the elongated members together.

Claim 16 (Original): The saddle stirrup of claim 13 wherein the loop includes a friction surface to prevent slipping.

Claim 17 (Original): The saddle of claim 13 wherein the upper end of the strap is releasably connected to the saddle seat.

Claim 18 (Original): A method for a rider to mount a horse having a saddle secured thereto, comprising:

placing the rider's right foot into a first stirrup hanging from the saddle; then

stepping up on the first stirrup; then

placing the rider's left foot into a second stirrup hanging from the saddle, the first stirrup being behind and below the second stirrup, and without crossing the rider's legs; then

stepping up on the second stirrup,

removing the right foot from the first stirrup; and then

swinging the rider's right leg over the horse so that the rider is seated in the saddle.